

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

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H. P. No. 450

H. D. No. 92

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House of Representatives, Feb. 10, 1925.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 1,000 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Oakes of Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE

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AN ACT to Provide for the Regulation of Public Dances and  
the Licensing and Regulation of Public Dance Halls and  
Penalties for Violation Thereof.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section 1. It shall be unlawful to hold or conduct any  
2 public dance or classes in dancing, or to give instruction in  
3 dancing for hire, until the dance hall or other place in which  
4 the same may be held shall first have been duly licensed  
5 by the municipal officers of the town where it is located as a  
6 public dance hall. The fee payable for each such license  
7 shall be three dollars.

Sect. 2. No license for a public dance hall shall be issued

2 until it shall be found by the municipal officers that the  
3 place for which it is issued complies with and conforms to  
4 all laws, by-laws, ordinances, health and fire regulations  
5 applicable thereto and is properly ventilated and supplied  
6 with separate and sufficient toilet conveniences for each sex,  
7 and is a safe and proper place for the purpose for which  
8 it shall be issued. Every person to whom a dance hall license  
9 is issued shall post the same in a conspicuous place in the  
10 dance hall covered by such license.

Sect. 3. The license of any public dance hall may be re-  
2 voked by the municipal officers for the violation of any  
3 provision of this or any other ordinance, law or by-law re-  
4 lating to such places, or rules or regulations promulgated  
5 thereunder. If at any time the license of a public dance  
6 hall shall be revoked, at least three months shall elapse be-  
7 fore another license or permit shall be granted to any man-  
8 ager, owner, or lessee of such dance halls.

Sect. 4. It shall be unlawful for any person to hold a  
2 public dance or to hold or conduct classes in dancing with-  
3 out having first obtained a permit therefor from the in-  
4 spector of dance halls or the municipal officers, which per-  
5 mit shall have been issued at least forty-eight hours before  
6 the dance authorized thereunder is to be held. Provided,  
7 however, that an annual permit may be issued by the mu-  
8 nicipal officers for dances or classes held and conducted by  
9 regularly established instructors in dancing. The fee for  
10 such permit shall be one dollar for each evening or three  
11 dollars for such annual permit.

Sect. 5. It shall be unlawful for any person conducting  
2 a public dance hall or dancing class, to allow or permit in  
3 any dance hall any indecent act to be committed or any dis-  
4 order or conduct of a gross, violent or vulgar character.  
5 Any member of the police and detective department or in-  
6 spector of dance hall, or other properly constituted authority,  
7 shall have the power and it shall be the duty of each of  
8 them, to cause any dance hall to be vacated whenever any  
9 provision of this act, or of any act, regulation or law con-  
10 cerning dance halls has been or is being violated, or wherein  
11 any law, by-law, ordinance, regulation or act of any charac-  
12 ter shall be violated, or whenever any indecent act shall be  
13 committed, or when any disorder or conduct of a gross, viõ-  
14 lent, or vulgar character shall take place therein.

Sect. 6. All public dances shall be discontinued and all  
2 public dance halls shall be closed on or before the hour of  
3 12 o'clock midnight.

Sect. 7. It shall be unlawful for any known prostitute,  
2 male or female procurer, or vagrant to be present at any  
3 public dance or at any public dance hall.

Sect. 8. A competent inspector of dance halls shall be  
2 appointed by the municipal officers in every city where pub-  
3 lic dance halls exist or public dances or dancing classes are  
4 held, and in towns the selectmen shall perform the duties  
5 of inspector. It shall be the duty of such inspector, or the  
6 selectmen acting as such, to examine all applications for  
7 dance hall licenses and investigate each application, to de-

8 termine whether or not the dance hall seeking the license  
9 conforms with the regulation, by-laws, ordinances and laws  
10 applicable thereto. The findings of the Inspector shall be  
11 made in writing and shall be accompanied by a recommenda-  
12 tion as to whether the license should be granted or refused.  
13 Such Inspector shall be permitted to have access to all  
14 public dance halls and all public dances at all times. He  
15 shall investigate complaints and shall inspect at least once  
16 in every month the dance halls in every town. Such In-  
17 spector shall be charged with the enforcement of this act  
18 and shall have, when desired, the assistance of other public  
19 officers in performing any of the duties delegated to him of  
20 this act.

Sect. 9. The term "public dance" as used in this act shall  
2 mean any dance to which admission can be had by pay-  
3 ment directly or indirectly of a fee, or any dance to which  
4 the public generally may gain admission with or without  
5 payment of a fee. The term "public dance halls" as used  
6 herein shall mean any room, place or space in which a  
7 public dance shall be held or in which classes in dancing  
8 are held and instruction in dancing given for hire. The  
9 term "known" used in connection with the words "prosti-  
10 tute" or "male or female procurer" or "vagrant," shall mean  
11 known to the manager, owner or lessee of a public dance  
12 hall, or to the person conducting a public dance, or to the  
13 police or other authorities having to do with regulation or  
14 supervision of public dance halls or public dances to be one

15 of the persons named, or who has such reputation or char-  
16 acter, or one who has pleaded guilty to or has been con-  
17 victed of being a prostitute, male or female procurer, or  
18 vagrant. The word "person" shall mean and include natu-  
19 ral persons, copartner-ships, corporations and associations,  
20 and shall include both sexes.

Sect. 10. Forms for applications and licenses shall be  
2 prepared by the state commissioner of health and forwarded  
3 to the several towns, and it shall be the duty of the com-  
4 missioner to have general oversight over the several in-  
5 spectors of dance halls in carrying out the provisions of  
6 this act.

Sect. 11. Any person who shall violate any provision of  
2 this act shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by im-  
3 prisonment not to exceed thirty days, or by fine not to ex-  
4 ceed one hundred dollars, or by both such fine and im-  
5 prisonment.